

Around the Services

Compiled by *SSG Alberto Betancourt*
from service reports



Coast Guard

The U.S. Coast Guard has awarded a landmark \$11.04 billion contract for a fleet of new ships and aircraft, plus improved command-and-control systems, to meet the service's homeland-security requirements and other mission needs for the next 20 years. Additionally, \$5.91 billion was allocated for operation, maintenance and sustainment costs.



Air Force

In July, Gen. Benjamin O. Davis Jr., the first black Air Force general, was buried at Arlington National Cemetery with full military honors. Davis commanded the all-black 99th Fighter Squadron, nicknamed the "Tuskegee Airmen," and later commanded the all-black 332nd Fighter Group. He graduated from the U.S. Military Academy in 1936.



Navy

The Navy has released all sailors remaining on duty under the stop-loss program. The Navy terminated stop-loss because fleet input indicated commands were properly manned to respond to current and projected operational requirements. The secretary of the Navy will continue to review the need to use stop-loss as the current national emergency continues.



Marines

Marine Reservists and sailors recently conducted a multi-national crisis-response exercise with the Baltic nations of Estonia, Lithuania and Latvia. The exercise focused on establishing command-and-control systems in crisis situations, enhancing cooperation among various authorities and international organizations, as well as promoting cooperation between the various defense forces. The exercise was in keeping with NATO's criteria to show the countries' ability to work in a joint-nation operation.

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